BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

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- **British Columbia's unemployment rate falls to 6.6% in June**
- **Value of buildings permits issued in British Columbia up 26.8% in May**
- **Smoking rate declines in 2011**

Labour Force Survey

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate fell to 6.6% (*seasonally adjusted*) in June.** The reduction in the jobless rate was largely driven by a contraction (–0.7%) in the number of people actively looking for work in BC. Employment in the province inched ahead 0.2%, entirely due to a rise in the number of public sector employees (+1.8%).

  Nationally, the jobless rate edged down to 7.2% in June as a result of fewer job-seekers. Employment growth stalled as gains registered in PEI (+1.0%), Ontario (+0.3%), and BC (+0.2%) were offset by declines in New Brunswick (–0.5%), Alberta (–0.4%), and Manitoba (–0.4%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Total employment in BC's goods sector rose 1.7% (*seasonally adjusted*) in June.** Gains in the goods sector were primarily the result of a surge in hiring among the province's manufacturing industries (+5.8%), which retook top-spot as BC's largest source of employment in the goods sector; a position held by the construction industry since November 2007.

  Service sector employment, however, edged 0.2% lower. Business, building and other support services (+5.0%), health care & social assistance (+2.2%), and education services (+2.2%) registered the largest increases. However, these were offset by slowdowns in information, culture & recreation (–4.7%), accommodation & food services (–2.3%), wholesale & retail trade (–1.6%), and professional, scientific & technical services (–1.6%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Jobless rates at the regional level (*unadjusted 3-month moving average*) ranged from 4.8% in Northeast to 12.2% in North Coast/Nechako in June.** Cariboo (+7.4%), Northeast (+3.7%), Kootenay (+3.4%) and Mainland/Southwest (+3.1%) posted the largest increases in employment. Employment was also slightly higher in Thompson/Okanagan (+1.2%). The number of jobs in North Coast/Nechako continued to plummet (–11.8%) in June, with Vancouver Island/Coast (–0.9%) registering a slight decline. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Average weekly wages in BC were $850.70 in June, comparable to the national average of $863.37.** Among BC's youth (aged 15 to 24 years), weekly wages were $410.95, slightly below the Canadian average ($430.88). Meanwhile, those aged 25 to 54 years earned $934.90. At the industry level, British Columbians employed in the utilities sector earned the highest weekly wage on average ($1,341.86), followed by those working in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas ($1,281.01) and public administration ($1,178.41). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **The total value of building permits issued by municipalities in British Columbia rose 26.8% (*seasonally adjusted*) in May.** Construction intentions for multi-family dwellings and institutional buildings climbed, contributing to double-digit gains in both the

Report **No report this week**

Did you know...

A significant proportion of British Columbians believe that the Canadian wilderness (85%), the flag (82%), and the national anthem (80%) are symbols that reflect what is great about Canada. *Data Source: Ipsos Reid*

residential (+30.7%) and non-residential (+21.2%) sectors. Nationally, the total value of permits was up 6.5%.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Year to date (*January to May, unadjusted*), building permits issued in the province were 23.2% higher than in the same period of 2011.** The value of permits increased in all regions except Thompson-Okanagan (-18.4%). In Vancouver Island/Coast, permits rose 6.8%, as planned construction in Nanaimo (+28.0%) and Powell River (+45.6%) increased at double-digit rates. Permits jumped 13.5% in the capital city, largely due to planned spending on residential projects (+27.3%). In Mainland/Southwest (+21.7%), Greater Vancouver (+27.1%) and Sunshine Coast (+66.2%) recorded significant increases, but building intentions were down in other parts of the region. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Lumber production in British Columbia fell 2.4% in April, compared to the same month of 2011, marking the first decline since November 2009.** Nationally, total production fell 0.5%, with hardwood production declining 9.4%, and production of softwood falling 0.2%. Nova Scotia (+25.9%) and Alberta (+4.6%) were the only provinces recording increases. Production in New Brunswick (-1.6%) and Quebec (-2.5%) contracted.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Coal production in British Columbia fell 7.8% in April, marking the second month of decline following a period of steady growth in the province.** Export demand for coal was strong, rising 29.9% over the same period of 2011. Nationally, production of coal fell 8.6%, dampened by a 12.2% decline in Alberta, together with a marginal increase in Saskatchewan (+0.9%). Coal exports rose on a national basis, climbing 37% in April, following a decline in March.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Health

- **The percentage of the BC population aged twelve and over who reported being daily smokers fell to 11.2% in 2011.** The drop follows a slight increase in the rate in 2010, and several fluctuations in the preceding years. Daily smoking among the male population fell from 14.3% in 2010 to 11.7% in 2011, pulling the overall smoking rate down. The female population's rate remained unchanged from the previous year, at 10.7%. The rate does not take into account the number of cigarettes daily smokers consume per day.

  The rate of occasional and daily smokers also declined in 2011, dropping to 15.9% from 18.1% in 2010. Again, this was due to a reduction in the percentage of the male population who were occasional and daily smokers. Among males, the rate fell from 21.9% in 2010, to 17.2% in 2011. Occasional smoking in the female population rose from 14.4% to 14.7% in 2011.

  Rates for occasional and daily smokers include those who report smoking at least once per day, and smokers who report smoking occasionally, including those who formally smoked daily. *Data Source: SC Cat. no. 82-213-XWE*

- **The percentage of non-smokers in British Columbia aged twelve and older who were exposed to second-hand smoke at home continued to decline, dropping to 2.6% in 2011.** The decline is consistent with a downward trend that began in 2003, when rates of exposure to second-hand smoke reached 5.8%. British Columbia falls well below the national average of 5.7%, reporting the lowest rates in all of Canada. Quebec is the province with the highest rate of second-hand smoke exposure, with a rate of 8.6% in 2011, down from 16.1% in 2003. *Data Source: SC Cat. no. 82-213-XWE*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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also on the Internet at **www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca** or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,597.9	1.0
Canada	34,670.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 8)		
(BC - at market prices)	2010	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	203,147	5.9
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	167,140	3.0
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,899	1.4
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	26,166	2.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Apr 2012	3,150	-1.2
Merchandise Exports - Apr 2012	2,749	1.7
Retail Sales - Apr 2012	5,145	-0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - May 2012)	one year ago	% change
BC	1.3	1.9
Vancouver	1.5	2.0
Victoria	1.2	1.8
Canada	1.2	2.5
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Jun 2012	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	3.6	
Labour Force - BC	2,485.8	-0.7
Employed - BC	2,322.2	0.2
Unemployed - BC	163.6	-11.6
		May 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.6	7.4
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.3
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jul 4/2012	Jul 8/2011
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.20	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.39
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jul 4/2012	Jul 8/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0128	0.9780
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9870	1.0207
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jun 2012	one year ago
BC	850.70	1.3
Canada	863.37	3.5

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Solid Waste Generation Forecast

This report highlights three projection scenarios with varying degrees of measures taken to divert waste from British Columbia landfills. The report includes a summary of the methodology and the results of the forecast for each scenario from 2010 through 2025. Read this at:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/EnvironmentalStatistics/Analysis.aspx

Census 2011 Fast Facts

The age-sex data from the 2011 Census have been released. For the first time, since reporting began, persons 65 years of age and older outnumbered 0 to 14 year-olds in BC. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/2011Census.aspx

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https://twitter.com/#!/bcstats

New RSS Feeds From BC Stats

BC Stats has published several new RSS feeds:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Help/RSSFeeds.aspx

The 2011 National Household Survey

Release dates have been set as:

May 8, 2013
- Immigration; Citizenship; Place of birth; Language; Ethnic origin; Visible minorities; Religion; Aboriginal Peoples

June 26, 2013
- Labour; Education; Place of work; Commuting to work; Mobility and migration; Language of work

August 14, 2013
- Income; Earnings; Housing; Shelter costs

http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/index-eng.cfm

Released this week by BC Stats

- Labour Force Statistics
- Earnings and Employment Trends

Next week

- Economic Statistics Report
- Business Indicators

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